



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Seven Wisconsin public schools earn Blue Ribbon Schools award

Federal program recognizes 320 for academic achievement

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster congratulated seven Wisconsin public schools for being named 2008 Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education (USED). They were among 320 schools recognized nationally for academic achievement or closing achievement gaps.

The public schools receiving the award in Wisconsin are

- Einstein Middle School, Appleton Area School District;
- Elm Dale Elementary School, Greenfield School District;
- Nicolet Union High School, Glendale;
- Parkside Elementary School, Fond du Lac School District;
- Redgranite Elementary School, Wautoma Area School District;
- Shorewood High School, Shorewood School District; and
- Wilson Elementary School, West Allis-West Milwaukee School District.

“Congratulations to the teachers, school staff members, and parents in these schools for working hard together to help children succeed,” Burmaster said.

Burmaster made nominations for the Blue Ribbon Schools award last fall in two categories: dramatically improving schools and high performing schools. Eligible schools submitted applications to the USED in mid-February.

Dramatically improving schools are those that have made adequate yearly progress and have at least 40 percent of their student population who are from disadvantaged families based on free or reduced-price meals, Title I services, limited-English proficiency, or migrant students. Student achievement must have improved over the past three years to now be above the 60th percentile in reading and mathematics. High performing schools also must have met the state’s adequate yearly

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progress objectives for the previous two years and be among the top 10 percent of all schools for that grade configuration on state assessments in both reading and mathematics.

“This federal award recognizes some of the top schools in the nation for student achievement,” Burmaster noted. “In each of these schools, teachers, parents, administrators, and the entire community are working to increase students’ academic achievement and close the achievement gap.”

Nationwide, 413 schools may be nominated for the award program based on the number of kindergarten through 12th-grade students in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. As part of the award, two representatives from each school, the principal and a teacher, will be invited to attend a Blue Ribbon Schools recognition ceremony Oct. 20-21 in Washington, D.C. The schools also receive a plaque and a flag signifying their status as a No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon School.

NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_134.pdf. Additional information about the No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Program is available on the U.S. Department of Education website <http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>.